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Furniture and Furnishings

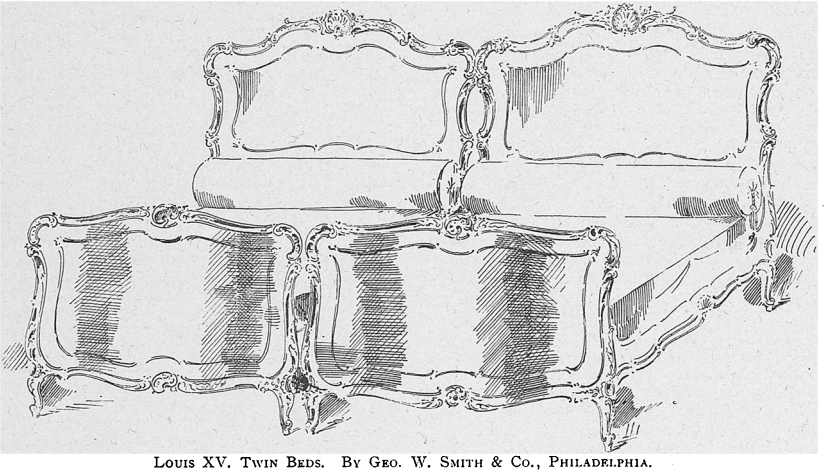
ART AND FURNITURE.

IT is interesting to note that the achievements of the present day in the line of goods intended for the art furniture trade have eclipsed those of former years.

There is no doubt that the American designer of today draws his inspiration from the Old World examples, but, at the same time, so well has he been trained, and so thoroughly artistic, as a rule, are his perceptions, that beyond the mere suggestive ideas that he may draw from such sources, his own productions have an individuality and gracefulness of outline and ideality that marks them as distinctively American.

The illustration on this page is from a design manufactured by the well-known firm of Messrs. George W. Smith & Co., of Philadelphia, and is typical of the high grade of goods manufactured in this country. The sketch shows a pair of twin beds designed on purely classical French lines, but treated after the free American manner, although the design throughout is in correct style, every detail of which has been carefully and thoughtfully considered. The material used is primavera, or white mahogany. The ornamentation is all of solid hand carving, there being no appliqué relief employed. The lines are light, graceful and artistic, and great pains have been taken in the selection of the material used to secure the harmony of shading peculiar to this wood. This old established firm is acknowledged as making the highest type of American high art furniture, and it is not necessary to visit either London or Paris when in quest of high-class work.

The use of china panels in the decoration of furniture they brought about last year was very successful, among them being an Empire table, of which we have already shown an example in the DECORATOR AND FURNISHER. The line of goods decorated in this manner has been greatly enlarged this year by the addition of numerous decorative patterns. The success that furniture and art dealers have had during the past year with these goods has encouraged them to pay more especial attention to this class of work than heretofore, and, indeed, a dainty Empire table decorated with these beautiful specimens of hand-painted porcelain is an object worthy of admiration in any finely fitted home. While their office, showroom and factory are in Philadelphia, this enterprising firm has a salesroom at 818 Broadway, for the convenience of New York and out-of-town buyers, under the management of Mr. H. P. Volmer, where may be found a great variety of their beautiful line of goods in every department. These manufacturers are making a specialty of executing orders for select trade, and are also on the alert in providing new patterns, new styles and new effects, and their very success is evident by a careful and thorough examination of their productions.



LOUIS XV. TWIN BEDS. BY GEO. W. SMITH & CO., PHILADELPHIA.